

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2003

The Honorable Speaker Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom DeLay
House Majority Leader
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. Majority Leader:

As members of the House Republican High-Tech Working Group, we want to express our support for legislative efforts to strengthen America's patent system and enhance our intellectual property infrastructure. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Fee Modernization Act of 2003 passed overwhelmingly in the House Judiciary Committee in July, and we encourage you to move this legislation before the end of this year.

We believe it is the right time to finally end the practice of diverting patent fees for other non-related purposes. America is on the verge of a robust and vigorous economic period of growth, but the potential inability of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to handle new patents could limit that growth.

We also encourage you to work with the Bush Administration to submit a budget next year that does not use these PTO funds for other purposes. We hope that you will help reinforce the position stated by Commerce Secretary Don Evans:

"To support technology innovation and provide for intellectual property protection, the Department is working to eliminate the practice of using USPTO revenues for unrelated programs. Making more fees available sooner will enable the agency to increase the quality of patents and trademarks issued".

Thank you for your strong advocacy on behalf of the interests of the high-tech community and we want to work with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Bob Goodlatte

Lamar Smith

Glenn Davis

Glady Forbes

Alan Spatman

Fred Upton

David Davis

Sam Davis

Jeff Wall

Henry Hyde

Richard Panto

John T. Doolittle

Sherry Bochen

Ch. Cox

Billy Truitt

Mr. Sussanbaum